



The Cup of Blessing

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The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?
1 Corinthians 10:16 KJV

My life verse is John 18:11 highlighted in the image above. Over the years I have often thought about how tailor-made for us “the cup” from God our Father truly is. This message was given as a “Communion Message” recently at Craighouse® Christian Fellowship. My prayer is that it will give you both pause and a reason to praise and rejoice in the LORD.

The cup of blessing which we bless is a sharing, a partaking, a fellowship, a communion, a participation of the blood of Christ. Paul warns in 1 Corinthians 10:21: You cannot drink the cup of the LORD and the dups of devils. You cannot be partakers of the Lord’s Table, and of the table of devils. Read 1 Corinthians 10:15-24 to get the context.

Whenever we participate in the Lord’s Supper, we are called to remember the Lord’s death until He comes. We are to know that individually and corporately we are united to Christ and to one another.

Let’s focus on “the Cup.” We’re not talking about the fruit of the vine, drinking that. Jesus says, “the cup.” In Gethsemane, in the throes of pressure, Jesus had prayed that this cup, the cup of God’s wrath, the cup which He must drink to the dregs, pass from Him; but in John 18:11 Jesus considers: **The cup which My Father has given Me, shall I NOT drink it?**

This cup was given to Him by His Father. It represented the suffering to be endured and the separation from the Father that He would experience. Jesus knew the price to be paid for our salvation. He was holy; even the devils knew that, calling Him the Holy One of God, Son of God. Jesus was holy, but He would be made the sin offering on our behalf. He would endure the wrath of God on our behalf. He would take the penalty for our sins, for all that stands between the elect and a holy God, His Father. He would experience the sorrow.

The word “cup” is often used figuratively in the Bible for that which is portioned out and of which one is to partake. Thus, it can mean God’s Judgments, His wrath or afflictions. (Psalms 11:6; 75:8; Revelation 14:10) Jesus used this term regarding His sufferings. (Matthew 26:39) He also used the term “cup” in reference to what some of His saints would suffer. (Matthew 20:22) In the Old Testament the cup had also been applied to the blessedness and joy of the children of God, and the full provision made for their needs. (Psalms 16:5; 23:5; 116:13)

Many “cups” are mentioned in the Scriptures. For example, from Isaiah 51:17; Jeremiah 25:15-28; Jer. 16:7; and Psalm 23:5, we have the cup of trembling, God’s wrath against the nations, the cup of consolation, and the overflowing cup of joy. Here’s some more: Cup of suffering, cup of demons, the cup of the Lord, the cup of Babylon (Revelation 17:4). [Since “drinking of the cup” means accepting whatever is appointed for one to experience—both good and bad, joyful or

sorrowful—all who drink of Babylon's cup will share in her future. See Revelation 14:10 re the cup of indignation.]

Jesus did not resist the cup given to Him from the Father's hand. He came to do the Father's will and finish the work the Father gave Him to do. We follow in Jesus' steps, but Jesus will eventually transform suffering into glory.

Now let's consider with Terry Laughlin who wrote a sermon September 21, 2005, three cups: the cup of wrath, the cup of salvation, and the cup of blessing.

1) The cup of wrath. We must recognize this truth whenever and especially when we come and receive communion together as the Body of Christ. John gives us this insight,

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." (John 3:36)

"Wrath" (*orge*) here is "referring to divine judgment to be inflicted upon the unrighteous." This wrath of God is not an uncontrolled, unthinking, or a violent reaction. It is a deep, sometimes permanent, thoughtful, controlled righteous anger that is good and deals justly with all who reject Christ." (Laughlin)

This anger of God is aroused for several reasons. Romans 2:5 says

"But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when His righteous judgment will be revealed."

Unsaved people allow their hearts to become hardened and unrepentant. Thus they spurn God's love – rejecting His truths, suppressing the truth in unrighteousness, invoking His vengeance.

He will punish those who do not... obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. (2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9)

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him... (Romans 1:18, 21)

2) The cup of Salvation: the Lord has a "Cup of Salvation."

I love the LORD, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy...I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. (Psalm 116:1, 13)

Psalm 116 has all the appearance of being a personal song, in which the believing soul may be reminded of God's love and power to deliver the one that calls upon the Name of the Lord. Thus to fully engage communion, one must personally be worshiping the Lord in spirit and truth.

Believers have been redeemed, purchased, by the Blood Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. He offered Himself voluntarily and as our substitute as a sacrifice for sin. Therefore we have assurance. Salvation brings joy (Psalm 132:16). Salvation brings refreshing, abundant life, separation unto God by the Holy Spirit, cleansing and confidence, a boldness, and much more.

3) The cup of Blessing –It is a cup of thanksgiving, of gladness, of blessing.

The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: You maintain my lot...Therefore my heart is glad. Psalm 16:5

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/three-cups-of-the-lord-terry-laughlin-sermon-on-lord-s-supper-83231?page=5&wc=800>

Jesus came to do the Father's will. It was not in His heart to do otherwise. John 4:34; John 6:38

because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and of goats to take away sins. 5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You prepared for me. 6 In burnt offerings and sin offerings You took no delight...Then I said, 'Here I am, it is written about Me in the scroll: I have come to do Your will, O God.' ...Hebrews 10:4b-7)

Two truths should stand out to us: Jesus came to do His Father's will. He delighted in it. A body was prepared for Him. Jesus Himself would be the sacrifice. He offered Himself a sacrifice for sin, taking the just penalty of death voluntarily.

Then I said, "Here I am, I have come--it is written about Me in the scroll: I delight to do Your will, O My God: yes, Your Law is within My heart. Psalm 40:7, 8

For we are made partakers of Christ, if/provided that we hold/preserve the beginning of the confidence steadfast to the end, unto the consummation. Hebrews 3:14. (It is the point into which the whole life of faith finally gathers itself up. See [Romans 6:21](#); [2 Corinthians 11:15](#); [Philippians 3:19](#); [Hebrews 6:8](#); [1 Peter 1:9](#). Vincent's Word Studies)

This speaks of a confidence of faith, the substance of faith, as in Hebrews 11:1. We partake ($\mu\acute{e}tōχoī$); we enter into a companionship with Christ in His house. We enjoy this companionship provided that we maintain the beginning of our confidence firm to the end. In other words, we must continue on and maintain to the end a strong and a true attachment to Christ our Redeemer. We must embrace Him, embrace our salvation received by faith that comes to us by grace. We must embrace and enter into His joy, His rest.

Barnes' notes, adapted: New believers exhibit great zeal and demonstrate a confidence of hope. But it is in the midst of temptations and trials that we grow into Truth. We build a confidence of faith. As we partake of the blessedness of having our citizenship in heaven, of persevering and holding to the faith, we have a quiet confidence which is our strength.

We may begin a Christian life in all this zeal and yet lack sincerity. We might be overcome with emotion, but we must walk in wisdom and in truth decidedly. We may start out noisy with much clamor and outward spiritual hubris, and fault others for seeming to be lukewarm, but we must become overcomers, bearing up under trials, enduring persecution and opposition. It might be a zig-zag sanctification process, but we must keep going, keep pressing toward the mark of the high calling of Jesus Christ. We must know that Jesus Christ is the Author and Finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2)

The cup of blessing which we bless is the participation, the sharing, the partaking, the fellowship, the communion of the blood of Christ. But we must ask, persevere in what?

(1) not in an empty profession of religious faith.

(2) not in zeal like that of the Pharisees for their party affiliation. They had that to the end of their lives.

(3) not in mere honesty, and correctness of external victorious Christian life routines. That might work in some church situations, but it doesn't cut it in the crunch. We need the internal reality. We need truth in the inward parts. We need regenerated hearts and renewed minds. We need Christ in us, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We need a real God who preserves us that we might persevere.

But we should persevere:

(1) in the love of God and of Christ – Barnes says, “in conscious, ardent, steady attachment to Him to whom our lives are professedly devoted.” This speaks of loyalty, of supreme loyalty and attachment to Christ.

(2) in the secret activities of maintaining relationship with a holy God. Barnes notes this so: “...in that watchfulness over the heart; that communion with God; that careful study of the Bible; that guardianship over the temper; and in that habitual contact with God in secret prayer which is appropriate to a Christian, and which marks the Christian character.”

(3) in walking in love, walking in truth, walking in wisdom, walking in humility, walking in the Holy Spirit, being led by the Spirit, keeping in step with the Spirit, etc. as distinguished from walking in the ways of the world, walking with one leg in occult activities and one in Christian activities. We cannot be on the fence. Either we partake of Christ or we partake of the devil in fellowship with devils. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/hebrews/3-14.htm>

Feeling does not furnish evidence of salvation. Our temperament, our character, the way we carry ourselves, our aims, our plans, should be different.

Whenever we, the Body of Christ, receive communion, sharing together in this meal, we are to be conscious of receiving all that Christ has done for us in the covenant through His Blood. That includes the forgiveness of our sin, our redemption, our reconciliation with God such that we have peace with God. We enjoy the result of Christ satisfying the wrath of God in our place. Curses are broken. Blessings may come. We have freedom from the guilt and liability of sin with the death penalty paid in full.

The power of the spirit of death is broken by Jesus Christ. It is broken for us when God grants repentance, to the acknowledgment of the truth in order that we might recover ourselves from the snare of the devil holding us captive at his will. This comes through knowing, believing, and receiving the Truth of all Jesus is, all Jesus has accomplished, and all that God has for us in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 2:25, 26)

I leave with this thought.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. Hebrews 2:14.

We partake; we have a share in the New Covenant in Christ's Blood. As Jesus partook of our humanity and died in our place, so also we are to partake of Him and live in the blessings of the Cup.

When we drink of His cup, we are saying we are willing to suffer with Him and experience with Him whatever He ordains for us. We, by God's grace and the help of the Holy Spirit, show a willingness to take up our cross and follow Jesus. The focus is on the Cup; we are to drink, all of us, as believers in Christ, in remembrance of Him. Because Jesus drank of the cup of God's wrath, in our place, we can thank God for the cup of salvation, a salvation in Christ alone through faith alone, by grace alone, to the glory of God alone. We can partake of the cup of blessing with thanksgiving inasmuch as we have a share in this New Covenant in Christ's Blood. Thus we are crucified with Christ yet nevertheless live by the faith of the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us. (See Galatians 2:20.)

May the LORD strengthen you with His grace as you walk with Him each day.

Persevering as He preserves,

Mary Craig

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"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the will of Him who sent Me; that I shall lose none of all that He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. For My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." (John. 6:37-40)

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